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**Testimony in Support of**

**S.B. No. 318, 'An Act Concerning Private School Transportation'**

Before the Education Committee

March 2, 2016

As parents of a student at St. Gabriel School in Windsor, we support S.B. No. 318.

Our son, who will graduate in June, has attended St. Gabriel School since Kindergarten. He has received a quality education and has been instilled with values which are in keeping with our faiths, and has been provided with a foundation which will enable him to succeed in his future endeavors.

We feel it is very important to keep access to Catholic Schools available to all children, especially in light of declining demographics in our state and recent school closures.

Living in the same town where St. Gabriel is located meant that our son could take the bus to school; as working parents, that was important.

Many of the students at St. Gabriel live outside of Windsor, requiring their parents to provide alternate transportation for their children; this may also prevent families from enrolling their children in our school if they are not able to provide that alternate transportation. If a reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town were allowed, that would help our school.

It is crucial to keep our urban schools open and accessible to students whose schools have closed in neighboring towns. Please keep access to our schools alive and viable for all children by allowing state reimbursements for inter-district transportation for K-8 nonpublic schools.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

Scott and Cynthia Glick